

***What are the specific goals of the High-Risk Perinatal Program?***

- Encourage normal developmental patterns in high risk infants and toddlers
- Help high-risk infants function better when they reach the school system
- Empower families to function at the highest level by accessing community resources
- Ensure the highest quality risk appropriate perinatal care
- Provide family-centered, culturally sensitive, and developmentally appropriate, coordinated services
- Provide services in a setting that best meets the needs of the child and family



In 2004, 90% of very low birth weight infants delivered at an APT certified appropriate level of care.

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**High-Risk Perinatal Program**

Arizona Department of Health Services  
Office of Women's and Children's Health



# *What is the High-Risk Perinatal/Newborn Intensive Care Program?*



**The High Risk Perinatal Program/Newborn Intensive Care Program (HRPP/ NICP)** is a comprehensive, statewide system of services dedicated to reducing maternal and infant mortality and morbidity. The program provides a safety net for Arizona families, to ensure the most appropriate level of care surrounding birth as well as early identification and support for the child's developmental needs.



Neonatal deaths within the first 28 days of life have dropped from 31.8% in the 1960's to 6.7% in 2004.

## **Maternal and Neonatal Transports**

HRPP/NICP contracted Neonatologists and Perinatologists provide medical consultation and case management related to treatment/stabilization. If needed, these contracted specialists provide authorization and medical direction of maternal and/or neonatal transport to a higher level of care. Infant transport back to the community hospital near the family after the acute hospitalization allows families to visit and learn to care for their baby. HRPP/NICP serves as payer of last resort for transports.

## **Hospital and Inpatient Physician Services**

Hospital and Inpatient Physician Services provide comprehensive, developmentally and risk appropriate care to critically ill infants within a hospital setting that is caring and supportive to the infant and their extended family. The program contracts with hospitals across the state that are certified by the Arizona Perinatal Trust (APT)/Arizona Perinatal Regional System (APRS). Contracted physician groups provide medical care to program infants during the Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) hospitalization. The program serves as payer of last resort for inpatient and physician care.



In 2004, 4,906 infants were enrolled in NICP.

## **Community Health Nursing**

Community Nursing Services facilitate the transition of the child and family from the Newborn Intensive Care Unit to their home and community. Periodic monitoring of the child's medical and developmental needs identifies infants who would benefit from referral to other early intervention programs. Through these home visits, the family receives support and education as well as referral to appropriate community resources.



The Program established Standards of Practice for Neonatal Community Health Nurses.

## **Developmental Follow-Up Services**

Developmental Follow-Up Services provide developmental assessments for HRPP/NICP enrolled infants after discharge when there are concerns about potential developmental delay. A primary care provider must make the referral for Developmental Services. Eligible infants receive periodic in depth developmental assessments using a multi-disciplinary approach. This service is for infants who are not eligible for the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AZEIP) and do not have health insurance that covers developmental assessments.